

beverages, classified in class 53, subclass 266.1.

III. Claims 15-18, drawn to a beverage container filling plant, classified in class 53, subclass 268.

IV. Claims 19-26, drawn to a product stabilizing section for a beverage container filling plant, classified in class 53, subclass 264.

IIV. Claims 27-30, drawn to a method for stabilizing sealed beverage containers, classified in class 53, subclass 426.

The requirement for election set forth in the Action is hereby expressly traversed, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement are respectfully requested.

It is submitted that the above-listed Species I-IIV are so closely related to one another that their examination could be most efficiently and effectively carried out in a single application.

However, in the event the election requirement is maintained, Applicant hereby provisionally elects Species IV for prosecution in the present application. Presently, Claims 19-26 appear to apply to Species IV.

It is respectfully requested that an action on the merits be issued at an early date.

Docket No.: NHL-HOL-55
Serial No.: 09/942,254

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nils H. Ljungman", with a checkmark at the end.

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